

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ALLEN

A Case Statement For A Spring 2017 Capital Funds Campaign

Inheriting a Legacy, Leaving a Legacy

For 135 years, First United Methodist Church of Allen has been making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Our congregation's campus serves as a reminder that, in 1966, the people of FUMC Allen made a bold decision to relocate to 601 S. Greenville Avenue in order to reach new people, more people, different people, and to serve its members more effectively. In every generation since its founding, there are those who have gone before us and have made sacrifices in order to provide for us and for the people who live in the larger Allen area.

Yes, through the generosity of countless others, we have been gifted with an excellent facility in an ideal location in order to reach those who live in our mission field and beyond. Today, this mission field is ripe with opportunities to reach new people with the message of God's unconditional love as revealed in Jesus Christ.



More Than Just Words On A Page

While our facility has been an effective resource for reaching our community, we realize the need to maintain and improve our campus to continue reaching the generations to come. In 2014, FUMC Allen adopted our strategic plan—*Vision 2020* and *Our Stepping Stones to the Future*. This plan addresses our faithfulness to provide life-changing ministry to care for our current congregation, develop current and future disciples, reach new people, and raise up a new generation of leaders.

Our plan also makes a commitment to improve our facility so that we can be more effective in ministry. Modernizing our campus involves both remodeling existing space and creating new space that best serves our community and emulates the building standards of those living in our area.

To illustrate that our *Vision 2020* is more than just words on a page, the members and supporters of FUMC Allen are dedicated to do for future generations what those who have gone before us have done for us. To that end, we have set out to address five facility priorities and conducting a capital funds campaign in order to fund these improvements:

1. Create an atmosphere of **exceptional hospitality** that includes a main entrance and central “connection point” where guests and members can gather in a warm and inviting space, build and nurture friendships, and easily navigate to our primary ministry areas (worship, children, youth, adults, recreation).
2. Create a secure, inviting and integrated **space for children**, creating an atmosphere where learning about the faith is fun, energizing, and joyful; therefore appealing to young families looking for a church home.
3. Create a **dynamic youth area** that sends a clear message that teenagers are wanted and welcome at FUMC Allen. Such space will include a large gathering area for fellowship and worship and classrooms for learning and growing in the faith. It will be a space where youth are eager to bring their friends for fun, fellowship, and embracing the faith.
4. Create and maintain warm welcoming spaces in our church facility by **providing medium-sized multi-purpose spaces** for receptions, fellowship, worship, and study.
5. Update and modernize our **sanctuary** and supporting resources (i.e. restrooms, A/C, lighting and sound) that reflect our culture and growing city. By updating colors, pews, audio-visual technology, etc., we will enhance this sacred space in a warm, engaging and inviting way. While preserving the sense of holy ground in this space, the updated sanctuary will continue to reflect the values of our congregation and provide a place of worship for upcoming generations.

Making the Vision a Reality

In anticipation of an upcoming capital campaign, our congregation leadership is focused on creating a campus improvement plan that will satisfy these five facility priorities in the most effective way possible. Initial estimates are at least \$6 million.

GFF, our newly engaged architecture firm, is working with our leadership teams and focus groups to find ways of fulfilling all five priorities as we responsibly steward our financial resources. Even as this plan is being developed, the congregation continues to pay on a long-term debt of \$1.9 million from the *Building to Share* project completed in 2001. During this important time in the life of the congregation, we seek to fulfill our unique mission while serving as responsible caretakers of the facilities entrusted to our care.

Currently, our building committee is overseeing the development of more detailed cost estimates, artistic renderings, and floor plans to be unveiled to the congregation during the intensive capital fundraising process that will begin in March.

Prioritization of projects, the plan for minimizing and ultimately eliminating the long-term debt and a comprehensive strategy for congregational support will ensure that a bold vision for ministry can be addressed in a systematic way.



The capital campaign assessment process currently underway is meant to gauge the readiness and potential of the congregation to embark on this journey.

During this season of preparation, we are all encouraged to begin prayerful consideration of our role as we come together to meet the challenges before us through the opportunity to financially invest in this bold vision.

Now is our time to make a generational difference that will be used by God to change lives forever.

Now is our time to make an investment in the future that will long be a blessing to generations yet to enter our church.

**The Time To Make A Difference
For the Next Generation is Now**

